

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

6.-20. (canceled).

21. (original) Saddle base (30) according to claim 6 characterized in that each flexing portion (180) is divided into two or more individual flexing portions (180a, 180b, 180c) by at least one flexing notch (190).

22. (original) Method of providing a saddle (10) according to claim 21 characterized in that it comprises the additional step of: providing an, for the horse, saddle pad (20) that fit in between the saddle base and the horseback.

23. (previously presented) Method of providing a saddle (10) according to claim 21 characterized in that the step of providing a saddle base (30) comprises: selecting from a set of saddle bases (30) a saddle base (30) of suitable size for the horse.

24. (previously presented) Method of providing a saddle (10) according to claim 21 characterized in that the step of providing a saddle base (30) comprises: forming the saddle base (30) to fit the back of the specific horse.

25. (previously presented) Method of providing a saddle (10) according to claim 2 characterized in that the step of providing a saddle seat (40) comprises: selecting from a set of saddle seats (40) a saddle seat (40) that fits the rider.

26. (previously presented) Method of providing a saddle (10) according to claim 21 characterized in that the step of providing a saddle pad (20) comprises: selecting from a set of saddle pads (20) a saddle pad (20) that fit in between the saddle base and the horseback.

27. (previously presented) Method of providing a saddle (10) according to claim 21 characterized in that the step of providing a saddle pad (20) comprises: forming the saddle pad (20) to fit the back of the specific horse.

28. (previously presented) Saddle (10) according to claim 1 characterized in that the saddle (10) with a stirrup system comprising a guide (320) extending from a front end region (330) of the saddle (340) to a rear end region (350) of the saddle (340); and a stirrup (360) that is supported by and allowed to move along the guide (320).

29. (original) Saddle (10) according to claim 28 characterized in that the guide (320) is a bendable element that is supported by the saddle (340) at the front end region (330) and at the rear end region (350) thereof, and that the guide element (320) is essentially longer than the shortest distance between the front end region (330) and the rear end region (350).

30. (previously presented) Saddle (10) according to claim 28 characterized in that the guide (320) is supported by a front fixing point (330) and a rear fixing point (350), wherein the front fixing point (330) is formed such that the length of the guide (320) is adjustable, whereby the height of the stirrup (360) can be adjusted.

31. (previously presented) Saddle (10) according to claim 28 characterized in that the rear fixing point (350) is arranged at the longitudinal centre of the saddle (340), and that the guides (320) from both sides of the saddle (340) are attached to the same rear fixing point (350).

32. (previously presented) Saddle (10) according to claim 28 characterized in that the guide(s) (320) is(are) attached to the rear fixing point (350) by a release mechanism (370) arranged to release the guide (320) when a rider falls off the horse, whereby the stirrup (360) is free to move past the loose end of the guide (320) and thus can be detached from the same.

33. (previously presented) Saddle (10) according to claim 28 characterized in that the stirrup (360) is supported on the guide by a runner (420, 440).

34. (original) Saddle (10) according claim 33 characterized in that the movement of the runner (420, 440) along the guide (320) is damped.

35. (previously presented) Saddle (10) according to claim 33 characterized in that the stirrup (360) and the runner (420, 440) are formed as one unit.